

I. Project Title: Database Management Program

II. Principal Investigator(s):

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III. Project Summary:

Development of a centralized database was a requirement of the Recovery Program when it was formed in 1986. All researchers who receive funding through the Recovery Program are required to submit all fishery data to the central database at the completion of their study. In addition, all researchers are required to submit a complete list of all endangered fish handled each year to the central database. Guidelines for the annual tagging list are circulated to researchers each year. A consolidated tagging list is compiled and distributed after tagging data are received from all researchers.

Most of the UCRB database consists of the 'all fish' data collected during the different investigations funded by the Recovery Program. These data relate to species, number collection date, site, gear, effort expended, habitat and any other parameter associated with collection of that fish. Only field fish-collection data or radiotelemetry data are required to be submitted. The Recovery Program does not require submitting data from invertebrate, geomorphology, hatchery or laboratory studies. All fishery data associated with a study are due to the database when the final report is approved by the Recovery Program.

All data are stored in individual dBASE files according to project and year(s) of collection. Data are not combined into one large database because of the wide variety of studies and study designs used. A list of field names and data codes has been prepared to guide database development. Investigators who use dBASE and field names and codes from the list do not need to provide any further documentation about the data file. However, any fields not described in the List of Field Names must be fully documented when the file is submitted. Because of the wide variety of study designs file structures vary widely, but all data of the same type are contained in fields with the same name and structure (e. g. the river where sampling occurred is identified by the same two-digit code in a field named 'RIVER'). Investigators may

also submit their data as delimited ASCII files or spreadsheet files. However, these files must contain only raw data aligned in rows and columns suitable for importing into dBASE or another database program. The data codes or numeric format must conform to the list of codes mentioned above. Investigators must also submit complete documentation describing the contents of the file.

The database manager checks each file to ensure that the data conform to the required format and prepares one page of documentation for each file received. The documentation includes name of principal contact, river where data were collected, year of data collection, a brief summary of the study design, description of the data file itself (i.e. field names and description of contents, data codes, etc), and a list of the major reports or publications that are associated with the data file. Future users will be referred to the reports for a complete description of the study design and conclusions of the original researchers.

The database manager also distributes PIT tags to researchers as they request them and maintains a list of all tags and who they are distributed to. PIT tag lists submitted by researchers are compared with this database to identify transcription errors. All errors can not be corrected, but at least a few errors can be eliminated before they are included in the basin-wide tagging list. Other errors are corrected when they are identified.

IV. Study Schedule: Scheduled to continue for the length of the Recovery Program.

V. Relationship to RIPRAP:

General Recovery Program Support Action Plan. V.A.2. Conduct interagency data management program to compile, manage, and maintain, all research and monitoring data collected by the Recovery Program.

VI. Accomplishment of FY 00 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:

PIT tags have been distributed as researchers and hatchery managers have requested them.

The Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker tagging lists were updated through 1999. The chub tagging list is updated through 1998 and work is nearly complete on adding the 1999 data to the list. Data on fish tagged during 2000 will be submitted by researchers this winter and added to the list.

All PIT tag numbers received were checked for possible errors by comparing the list of incoming PIT tag numbers with a list of all PIT tags issued. Several minor errors were found and clarified with the original investigators. In the past, the only checking done was to check validity of PIT tag numbers. Beginning in 2000, checks were made on major codes included with the data to ensure consistency with established

guidelines. A few inconsistencies were found and corrected. However, by and large the tagging data submitted by researchers is in very good shape when received for inclusion in the data base.

Although the data are checked as they are entered into the database, some errors can not be detected until someone works directly with the data. Several problems were detected by researchers working with the data, including some possibly missing data. After considerable checking with different researchers, it was discovered that two small data sets had been inadvertently excluded when data were submitted. Those data will be added to the 2000 version of the tagging lists. There are undoubtedly other small amounts of data that might still remain to be submitted.

Large amounts of data are expected to be submitted to the database in 2001 because most studies funded under the Aspinall and Flaming Gorge Umbrellas have been completed and finalized by the Recovery Program. These data started coming in during 2000, but data from most reports finalized in the recent past still is outstanding. This issue was discussed at the October Biology Committee meeting, and members were going to pass the word to their researchers. In some cases, researchers were contacted directly by the database manager. The Program office is compiling a complete list of completed reports. When that list is received, it will be compared with the data currently in the database and missing data will be identified. Researchers with missing data will be notified that the data collected during their projects are now due.

A reminder that 2000 PIT-tagging data are due will be sent to all researchers in December.

- VII. Recommendations: Continue the database program.
- VIII. Project Status: Project is on track. Scheduled to continue through the length of the Recovery Program.
- IX. FY 00 Budget
 - A. Funds Provided: 34.5 K
 - B. Funds Expended: 34.5 K
 - C. Difference: 0
 - D. Publication Charges: 0
- X. Status of Data Submission: Original field data are not collected during this project.
- XI. Signed: C.W. McAda, December 6, 2000